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REMARKS

Claims 1-33 of the application stand rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending Claims 1-33 in light of the remarks herein.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 9-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Ishida et al., U.S. Publication US-2001/0032258 A1 (hereafter "Ishida"). The Examiner submits that Ishida teaches all the elements of these claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

First, with respect to independent Claims 1, 10, 20 and 28, the Examiner suggests that FIG. 1 and Para 0075 – 0078 of Ishida disclose the claimed elements of a variable time period (VTP), a time duration to a next connection (TDNC) and an access log. Applicants strongly disagree. The Examiner does not point to any specific language in Ishida that describes a VTP, a TDNC or an access log. Instead, the Examiner makes the conclusory statement that the VTP is equivalent to "time of access" while the access log is described by "using URL access log".

Applicants' own perusal of Ishida does not support the Examiner's conclusions. The language in Para 0075-0078 reads as follows:

[0075] As shown in FIG. 2, this certification server 7 is connected to a user information storage section 11, which stores user information including, for example, the user ID and password. Then, this certification server 7 checks the certification information entered by the user 4 with the user information stored in the user information storage section 11 (FIG. 2) to thereby performs certification of the user 4. Then, this certification server 7 returns affirmation or negation as a certification result to the aforesaid terminal server 6 (step S2).

[0076] Upon receipt of an affirmative certification result, the terminal server 6 permits an Internet connection for the user 4 and assigns a unique IP address to a port to which the user 4 is connected as shown in FIG. 3A. Thereby, the user 4 can download/upload information by connecting to/accessing various URL's (Web sites) using this IP address until he/she disconnects from the terminal server 6.

[0077] Here, the terminal server 6 is connected to a routing server 12 (router) and this routing server 12 functions so that all Internet connections through the terminal server 6 are routed through the aforesaid substitute server 8. For example, if the user 4 issues a browsing request of a URL 1, shown as 13a in the drawing, the user 4 will be connected to the URL 1 through the aforesaid substitute server 8 (step S3). Thereby, the substitute server 8 obtains a URL access log, which indicates the time of access, the IP address used and the URL to which an access request was issued, and stores URL access log information in an IP address-URL access log storage section 14 (step S4). Then, as shown in FIG. 4, the aforesaid substitute server 8 records additional access log

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information every time the user 4 issues a connection request to a URL (URL 2, URL 3 and the like).

[0078] Next, if the user 4 disconnects from the terminal server 6, the aforesaid certification server 7 stores the IP address usage information, that is, connection start time and connection end time for the IP address, associated with the certification information of the user (user ID) in a user-IP address usage information storage section, indicated with the number 15 in the drawing (step S5). FIG. 3B shows a condition in which a user with a member ID=A completed a disconnection. Then, when the user disconnects, the aforesaid certification server 7 issues an update command to the aforesaid update server 9 (step S6)."

Applicants respectfully submit that these sections highlighted by the Examiner do not teach various elements of the claimed invention. First, a VTP is defined in the specification as "The variable time period (VTP) is a piece of data representing a time period that is chosen by a server and transmitted to a client" (Specification, Page 2, Para 4). Ishida does NOT describe this element. If the Examiner believes otherwise, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to point to specific language in Ishida that describes this element. Additionally, a TDNC is defined in the specification as "The time duration to the next connection (TDNC) is data representing any period of time." (Specification, Page 2, Para 4). Again, Applicants respectfully submit that Ishida does NOT describe this element and invites the Examiner to point to specific language in Ishida to show otherwise.

Applicants hereby maintain that Ishida does not at least these elements of the claimed invention. In order to sustain a 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection to the claims, the reference must show each and every element of the claims. Thus, it is irrelevant whether Ishida describes the other elements of the claimed invention (and Applicants maintain that it does not). Instead, Applicants respectfully submit that at least for the reasons described above, Ishida fails to anticipate Claims 1, 2, 7 and 9-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and therefore respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection to these claims.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ishida in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,410,343 ("Coddington"). Additionally, Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ishida in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,671,279 ("Elgamal"). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection.

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Claims 3-6 and 8 are dependant on Claim 1. As described above, Ishida does not teach various elements of independent Claim 1. The addition of Coddington and/or Elgamal does not overcome this shortcoming, i.e., neither Coddington nor Elgamal, alone or in combination with Ishida, teach or suggest the missing claim elements discussed above. As a result, regardless of whether Coddington and Elgamal teach the elements of Claims 3-6 and Claim 8, the combination of Ishida and Coddington and/or Elgamal cannot teach all the elements of these claims. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection to Claims 3-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

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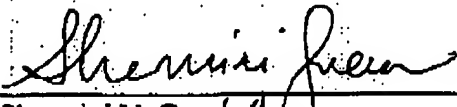
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome and that pending Claims 1-33 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance in this case. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (714) 669-1261.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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